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into the hands of Thomas Rehdiger with whose collection it finally passed into the city library of Breslau. In text the manuscript allies itself with the Irish branch of Vulgate manuscripts, but it exhibits no small affinity with the Old Latin and seems to represent a transitional or at least a mixed text. Haase's painstaking edition of the manuscript is now so rare and inaccessible and its actual imperfections were such, especially where corrections were concerned, that Vogels has provided this admirable edition, in which particular account is taken of erasures and corrections of all sorts. The result is an ideally complete and convenient edition of the text, column by column and line by line. The three facsimiles from different parts of the codex will give an idea of its general style and be of use to the palaeographer.

The Signification of *bērākā*—A Semasiological Study of the Semitic Stem *b-r-k*. By T. Plassmann. New York: J. F. Wagner, 1913. Pp. xii+180.

This is a most elaborately worked-out study in the semasiology of the word "bless" in Hebrew. Semasiology is a relatively new branch of Semitic lexicography; it may be defined as the science of the meaning of words. This study takes into consideration the entire history and usage of the word *b-r-k* throughout the Semitic group of languages. It reveals a complete mastery of the methodology of this field, a working familiarity with the dictionaries of the entire group of languages, and the power of keen discrimination among meanings and origins. At times the processes and conclusions are somewhat subjective, but the main results are well sustained. The study furnishes an excellent model for other workers. It was prepared as a thesis for the degree of Ph.D. to the faculty of the Catholic University of America at Washington, D.C. It reflects great credit upon the institution as well as the author.

A manual for Bible students appears under the title *Classbook of Old Testament History* (Macmillan, \$1.00). The author is Dr. George Hodges, dean of the Episcopal Theological School, in Cambridge, Mass. It is intended for the general reader and for classes in schools and churches. The author says that he has made constant use of recent discoveries, and of the "conservative" results of scholarship (p. v). While the book indicates that the writer is acquainted with most of the leading conclusions of modern critical study of the Old Testament, the treatise itself is hardly fitted to convey those conclusions to students and general readers. Its lights and shadows are accommodated to those who may come to the book with the older presuppositions in mind. The real problems of

Old Testament history and religion, as now under discussion by the leading scholars, are not recognized. The writings of such men as H. P. Smith, Driver, G. F. Moore, and G. A. Smith are mentioned only in the preface. A present-day textbook on Old Testament history for students and general readers should have an ample equipment of detailed references to the works of such men. It is of course, a matter of difficulty for one who is writing a popular treatise of this kind to decide just what to include and what to omit.

A useful study of the period lying between the Old and New Testaments appears in *Jewish History and Literature under the Maccabees and Herod*, by Dr. B. H. Alford (Longmans, Green & Co., \$1.00). The book is issued as a continuation of the author's earlier work on Old Testament history and literature. The present volume surveys in some detail what the Jews wrote in the interval between the passing of Simon the Hasmonean and the coming of John the Baptist. The author hopes to make more clear the connection between the different parts of Scripture. The book is a useful study of the intermediate period.

Under the title *The New Testament Period and Its Leaders* (Sherman, French & Co., \$1.35), Rev. Frank T. Lee, D.D., undertakes to show "how Christianity was prepared for, inaugurated, emancipated from Judaism, and became universal." The author is a devout Christian, who writes with the best of intentions, and who is unaware of the problems now uppermost among scholars who are investigating the rise of Christianity from the scientific point of view.

Two further collections of devotional material are before us compiled from manuscripts left by the late Dr. J. R. Miller (Crowell, \$1.00 each). One is entitled *The Glory of the Commonplace*. It is well adapted to stimulate its readers to holier and truer lives. Dr. Miller had the faculty of saying unusual things about ordinary affairs. The other volume is called *Things That Endure*. "There is no immortality for vanity and self-seeking," writes Dr. Miller. "Nothing that we do for ourselves will endure. Our work will last only when it is inspired by love and is wrought in the name of Christ."

Still another book on modern Chinese conditions appears, under the title *New Thrills in Old China* (Doran, \$1.00), by Charlotte E. Hawes, a Presbyterian missionary at Shantung. Her experience in China began in 1897; and she has lived through the Boxer riots and the subsequent period of unrest leading up to the revolution which destroyed the Manchu dynasty. She writes entertainingly of these events.